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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
25 May 1967

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Arab-Israeli Situation Report  
(As of 1630 EDT)

1. An official of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry told the head of the Political Section of the American Embassy in Cairo today that the U.S. was correct in thinking that Egyptian plans had been carefully laid. He implied that they had been in the works for some time, and that one goal was the elimination of US influence in the Middle East.

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3. Egypt held air raid blackouts and drills last night in major Egyptian cities, and the cabinet met yesterday on the crisis and on civil defense measures. Damascus has scheduled an air raid drill this evening.

4. The level of Israeli mobilization is now estimated at 55 to 65 percent. Israeli Foreign Minister Eban is now in New York. He apparently hopes to obtain guarantees from the maritime powers that they will ensure freedom of shipping in the Aqaba Gulf. According to press reports, France has advised Israel not to send a test ship through the Strait

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State Department review completed.

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7. Reuters has reported "highly placed sources" in Moscow as saying that the Soviets will make appropriate efforts toward a reduction of tensions without deviating from basic support for the Arab cause. This is the firmest overt sign that the USSR is trying to calm the situation, and it is in line with earlier indications that Moscow is privately urging caution on the Arabs.

8. According to USIS officers in Amman, the present crisis has enormously enhanced Nasir's popularity in Jordan, even on the part of many Jordanians who normally fear and despise him. At the same time, US statements on the right of innocent passage through the Gulf of Aqaba have been widely interpreted as one more example of US support of Israel against the Arab world.

9. According to Baghdad press reports, a "little" Arab summit conference will be held in Cairo "soon" to study the explosive situation in the area. The conference will be confined to the heads of state of Egypt, Syria, Iraq, and Algeria. The four leaders will also review their countries' relations with the US because of its "blatant partiality" for Israel.

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